



**FILE: GROUND WATER - ALGIUM, INC. - EPA  
SITE/FACILITY INVESTIGATION**  
**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
**REGION 10**  
1200 Sixth Avenue  
Seattle, Washington 98101

August 14, 1998

RECEIVED

AUG 18 1998

DIVISION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
POCATELLO

**Reply to**  
**Attn of: ECL-115**

Tom Mullican  
IDHW-DEQ  
224 S. Arthur  
Pocatello, ID 83204

RE: Nu-West Industries, Conda, Idaho

Dear Mr. Mullican:

As requested, please find enclosed a copy of the most recent Agency reports regarding the nu-West Industries site. This includes the Site Inspection Prioritization Report of May 1993 prepared by SAIC for EPA and the Expanded Site Inspection report of September 1994 prepared by Roy F. Weston, Inc. for EPA.

Additionally, I have enclosed copies of the most recent Agency correspondence to facility representative(s) and local/state officials.

Should you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me at (206) 553-0323.

Sincerely,

*Monica Tonel*

Monica Tonel  
Site Assessment Manager

Enclosures



October 5, 1994

Reply to  
Attn of: HW-114

Monty Johnson, Environmental Manager  
NuWest Industries, Inc.  
3010 Conda Road  
Soda Springs, Idaho 83276

Re: Nu-West Industries, Inc. Site - Soda Springs, Idaho  
Expanded Site Investigation (ESI) Report

Dear Mr. Johnson:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), through its contractor, Roy F. Weston, Inc. (WESTON), has completed the expanded site investigation (ESI) of the above referenced site. A copy of the report is enclosed.

The ESI was conducted due to concerns regarding the potential impacts posed by the site to the surrounding environment, specifically to ground water. Ground water samples were collected from on-site production wells and from off-site domestic drinking water wells. A discussion of the sample results is presented in the enclosed report.

Based on the ESI report, no further action by the Federal Superfund Program is recommended at this site.

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (206) 553-0323.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Monica Rolluda".

Monica Rolluda  
Site Assessment Manager  
Superfund Response and Investigations Branch

cc: Lance Nielsen, IDHW  
Mark Masarik/Fran Allans, EPA-IOO  
Caribou County Environmental Health



October 5, 1994

Reply to  
Attn of: HW-114

Lance Nielsen  
IDHW-Office of Environmental Quality  
1410 N. Hilton  
Boise, Idaho 83706

Ed Marugt  
South East Health District  
465 Memorial  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Re: Nu-West Industries, Inc. Site - Soda Springs, Caribou County, ID

Dear Gentlemen:

The EPA has completed an expanded site investigation (ESI) of the above referenced site. Based on the findings presented in the enclosed ESI report, EPA has determined that no further action by the Federal Superfund Program is recommended at this site. This determination was made as an evaluation of the site for possible inclusion on the National Priorities List (NPL) indicates that this site does not score high enough for proposal to the NPL.

It should, however, be noted that elevated levels of nitrate were detected in two off-site domestic drinking water wells (i.e. Torgesen and Durfee wells). Based on analytical results, the high levels of nitrate found in these off-site wells is not attributable to the NuWest facility. The concentrations of nitrate detected in the Torgesen and Durfee wells are 29 mg/l and 9.82 mg/L, respectively. The federal drinking water standard for nitrate is 10 mg/L. ~~Excessive levels of nitrate in drinking water are known to cause health effects<sup>1</sup> in children. EPA has been informed that the Torgesen's utilize groundwater for drinking purposes however do not have children in their household. The Durfee family, including children, do not utilize groundwater for drinking purposes. EPA strongly recommends that other nearby domestic drinking water supply wells utilized by children, should be sampled for further evaluation of potential human health threat(s). In addition, measures to minimize further migration of this contaminant to nearby drinking water wells should be taken.~~

If you have any questions, I can be reached at (206) 553-0323.

Sincerely,

Monica Rolluda  
Superfund Response & Investigations Branch

cc: Mark Masarik, EPA-IOO (w/o Enclosure)

<sup>1</sup> excessive levels of nitrate in drinking water have caused serious illness and sometimes death by interfering with the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood in children under one year of age. Young children should be provided with an alternate source of drinking water.



Science Applications International Corporation  
An Employee-Owned Company

RECEIVED

MAY 04 1993

Superfund Response & Investigation Branch

May 3, 1993

DCN: TZ4-C10025-LR-13739

Ms. Debbie Flood  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Sixth Avenue (HW-113)  
Seattle, WA 98101

Subject: SIP Report for Nu-West Industries, Conda, Idaho  
W.A. C10025, EPA No. 68-W9-0008  
SAIC/TSC Project No. 6-788-03-1408-100

Dear Ms. Flood:

The Nu-West Conda plant in Conda, Idaho, produces phosphate-based fertilizer as well as phosphoric acid. The plant has three tailings ponds, two gypsum ponds, and one or two cooling ponds. There is also a small industrial landfill onsite. The gypsum ponds and tailing ponds represent large onsite sources; the small industrial landfill and continuing stack emissions represent lesser sources. The gypsum ponds and tailings ponds are surface impoundments composed of waste materials. As material is pumped into the ponds, material precipitates or settles out, building up the structure which forms the impoundment. This results in a large quantity of solid material exposed (gypsum stack and tailings) as well as liquid material held in the impoundments.

There are numerous documented cases of releases of hazardous materials to the environment by Nu-West and previous owners of the facility. Releases to ground water have been documented to varying degrees and releases to air have been documented to a limited extent.

#### SITE BACKGROUND

The El Paso Natural Gas Company purchased the property in the early 1960's and constructed a phosphate ore processing facility and began operations by 1964. Becker Industries purchased the plant in 1971 and operated until 1985 when operations were ceased due to financial difficulties. Nu-West Industries purchased the facility in 1987 and began reconditioning the plant. In 1987 when Ecology and Environment (E&E) performed a Site Inspection, the reconditioning process was still under way; therefore, any

Ms. Debbie Flood  
May 3, 1993  
Page 2 of 4



assessment of the plant relative to stack emissions or impacts to onsite workers from any of the sources was not assessed. Nu-West resumed operations in late 1987 after the E&E inspection was performed.

Throughout the history of the facility there have been releases of hazardous materials into the environment. Releases most recently documented include acid spills (which were remediated with oversight from Idaho DEQ). One large release to ground water occurred in 1976 when a dike surrounding the Nu-West cooling pond (then owned by Becker Industries), broke and released approximately 400 acre-feet of wastewater into the surrounding area. Elevated concentrations of cadmium, fluoride, and phosphate were found in J.R. Simplot industrial well #10 immediately after the spill, but concentrations immediately attenuated (J.R. Simplot Company, located adjacent to the Nu-West facility, housed many of their employees in the company town of Conda until the mid 1970's).

Other releases to ground water have been qualitatively documented in correspondence between previous owners of the Nu-West facility and J.R. Simplot. There is evidence that the now abandoned town of Conda's water supply was impacted by releases from the Nu-West (then El Paso Natural Gas and then Becker) facility. The nature of these releases (accidental spills, intentional discharges, etc.) is not clear. As early as 1967, J.R. Simplot complained to El Paso Natural Gas that ground water contamination from their plant was impacting Conda's potable water supply. Other correspondence from that time period exists in EPA's file documenting impacts on domestic water supplies.

The largest documented release was in 1976 when a cooling-water pond dike broke, releasing 400 acre-feet of wastewater. As mentioned above, the concentrations of a few chemicals quickly attenuated.

Releases to air have only been documented in terms of how stack emissions are regulated for air-quality. The emissions are regulated for sulfur dioxide SO<sub>2</sub> and opacity, as part of a monitoring plan for their air permit. There have been documented exceedances of regulated levels of SO<sub>2</sub>.

#### AREAS OF CONCERN

Although there has been documentation of releases to ground water in the past, targets potentially exposed appear to be minimal. The nearest offsite domestic wells to the Site are likely hydraulically separated by a basaltic fault from ground water

Ms. Debbie Flood  
May 3, 1993  
Page 3 of 4



beneath the Site. Measured releases have in the past been restricted to industrial wells. However, the historic use of wells at J.R. Simplot is not clear. It is possible that domestic wells were converted to industrial wells when water quality deteriorated. Currently, there are no known drinking water wells impacted by the Site.

Of greatest concern is the air pathway. In the 1987 site inspection, the air pathway (fugitive dusts and stack emissions) was not considered because of the non-operational status of the plant. Currently, however, 240 employees work at the facility. The Nu-West facility also has a pending Notice of Violation (EPA Region X Air and Toxics Division) against it for exceedances of permitted air emissions. In addition, an adjacent property owner has claimed that the emissions have impacted their property by promoting rusting of their out-buildings and fences. This is consistent with proximity, winds, and acid precipitation associated with sulfur dioxide.

A potential threat to public health may lie in chemicals contained in the stack emissions or in wind blown dust from the source piles. There is a strong possibility that heavy metals, fluoride, and/or radionuclides exist in the stack emissions and/or wind blown dust from the source piles. These contaminants should be considered as potentially existing in elevated concentrations based on constituents of wind blown dust and stack emissions at other plants which use similar raw materials. Potential airborne contaminants and concentrations may vary depending on the exact process. Given the probability that these chemicals are present in elevated concentrations, there could be health considerations for onsite workers, nearby offsite residents, as well as any sensitive ecological receptors nearby.

#### New Information

The primary source of information used for this report was the 1988 Ecology and Environment Site Inspection Report. Other information regarding facilities using similar raw materials was obtained through consultation with Jim Eldridge of SAIC (206) 485-2818. Mr. Eldridge is project manager at SAIC for contract work being done for EPA on the Monsanto and Kerr-McGee CERCLA Sites in Soda Springs, Idaho. These superfund sites are near the Nu-West facility.

Ray Nye, of EPA Region X, Air and Toxics Division (206) 553-4226, provided general information regarding the Notice of Violation.

A CERCLA Eligibility Checklist is enclosed.

Ms. Debbie Flood  
May 3, 1993  
Page 4 of 4



Please feel free to call Lynn Guilford or myself at (206) 485-2818 if you have any questions or comments regarding this submittal.

Sincerely,

Technology Services Company, A Division of  
SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION

David Pass  
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure:

cc: G. Sink (letter only)  
P. Rubenstein (letter only)

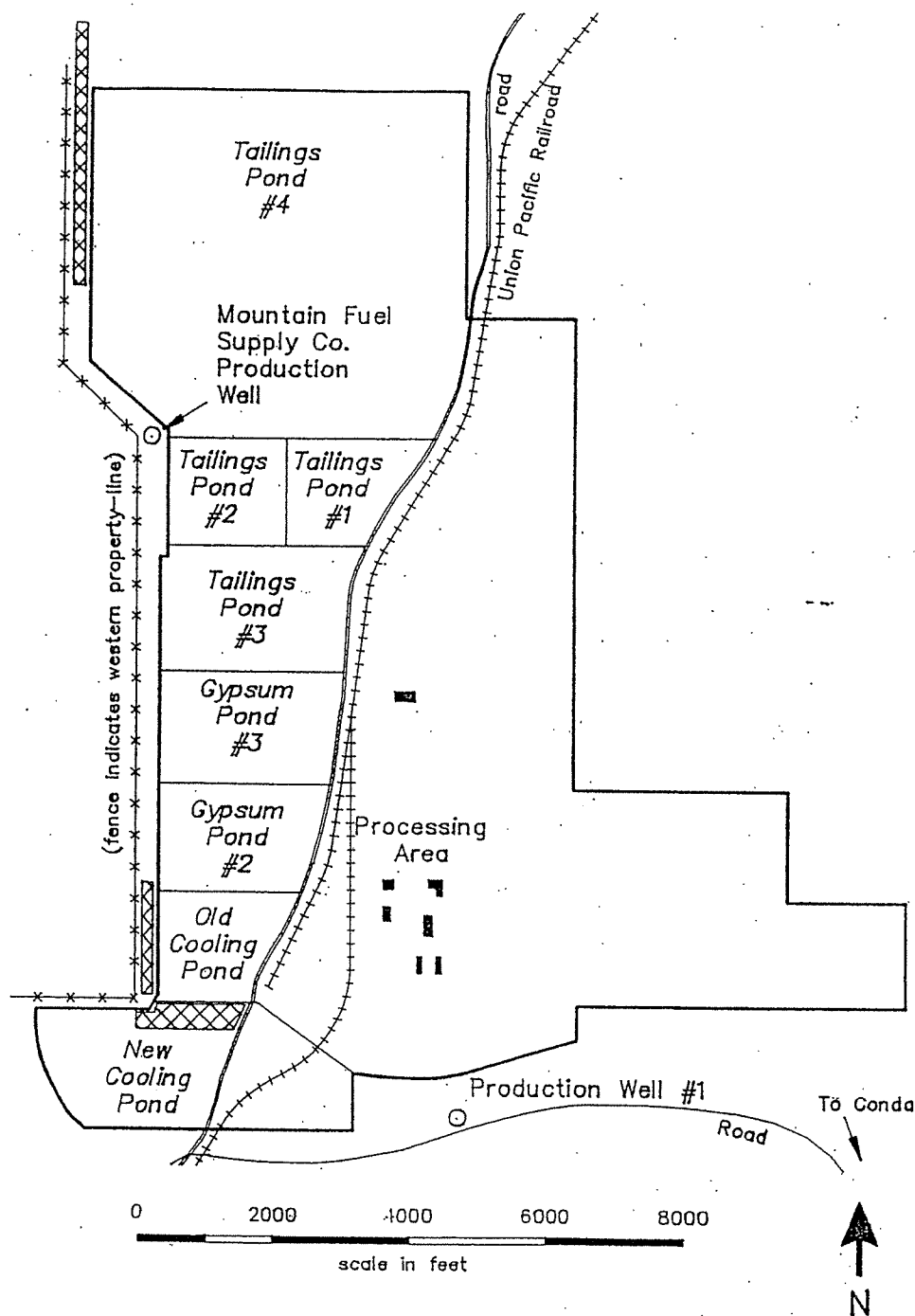
EPA REGION 10  
CERCLA/NPL ELIGIBILITY CHECKLIST  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

SITE NAME:

DATE:

- PETROLEUM EXCLUSION
  - ☐ exempt wastes present
- NRC
  - ☐ a federally licensed facility
- PESTICIDE SITE
  - ☐ legal application of pesticides in vicinity
- INDOOR AIR POLLUTANTS
  - ☐ present
- METHANE
  - ☐ present
- FEDERALLY PERMITTED RELEASE
  - ☐ present (specify- )
- MINING SITE
  - ☐ excluded waste (see 54 FR 15316)
- AGGREGATION ISSUES
  - ☐ ground-water plumes - likely sources identified
  - ☐ sediment contamination - likely sources identified
  - ☐ non-contiguous areas of concern
  - ☐ other (specify- )
- RCRA *small quantity generator*
  - ☐ protective filer
  - ☐ non-notifier
  - ☐ convertor
  - ☐ generator or transportor
  - ☐ late filer
  - ☐ permit issued before HSWA (1984)
  - ☐ owner bankrupt
  - ☐ unwilling (see 53 FR 30005)
  - ☐ inability to pay (see 53 FR 30002)
  - ☐ TSD (give status and dates)

☒ NONE APPLY *as documented*



SNAKE  
RIVER

NRCS - AG. EXPERTS

POWER  
COUNTY

NEED OFFICIAL SUBMITTAL FROM CO. SAYING WHAT THEY ARE  
GOING TO DO ABOUT G.W. CONTAM. PROBLEM - DOES \$15,000/YR  
COVER THIS AS FAR AS FIN. ASSUR. IS CONCERNED

→ A CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

- 15,000 MUST ALSO COVER ALL OTHER POST CLOSURE LANDFILL MAINTAINENCE
- LOOK AT OUR CORRESPONDENCE ASKING THE COUNTY TO DO SOME ACTION.

AGRUM

WHAT IS HISTORY? WHAT DATA AVAIL. ON AGRUM  
NOT HAVING G.W. MON.? WHAT DID EPA DO? WHY  
DID AGRUM GET OFF THE HOOK?



# STATE OF IDAHO

## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENT  
Pocatello

FILE NOTE

9 Jan 84

RE: Phosphoric Acid Spill  
Beker Industries, Soda Springs

BY: John Moeller *JRM*

Daryl Koch called at 3:10 P.M., Friday, 6 January 84, to report a spill that day of approximately 40,000 gallons of phosphoric acid. The company contacted Daryl who notified EPA (Bill Fruetel), and the S.E. District Health Department (George Spinner). The acid flowed onto neighboring property, which will be owned by Beker Industries within a few days. No surface waters are nearby; nearest wells are owned by Beker. The material was scheduled to be scooped up and placed back into the containment pond.

Daryl felt that no further action was justified.

md

CC: Gordon Hopson

Paul

To: Craig Harlen

Date: September 9, 1988

Copies: Ferris Hymas  
Laran Burdick

From: Mike Tucker

Department: Maintenance

Plant: Barber/White Plant

Subject: PCB SPILL - TRANSFORMERS #13 - September 2, 1988

At approximately 8:00 p.m. Friday, September 2, 1988, Steffen Gregerson was making an inspection of the #6 substation in Phosphoric Acid when he noticed a leak in the #13 transformer. This is a 13,800 volt to 480 volt 1500 KVA transformer of G. E. manufacture.

Steffen immediately informed his supervisor who contacted the guard on duty, Ross Tippetts, to make the electrical call-outs. Ross began his calls at 8:30 p.m. and finally got in touch with Gary Miller and John Tippetts at 9:00 p.m. John called Laran Burdick, the E & I Supervisor, and the three arrived at about 9:30 p.m. Ferris Hymas, the E & I Superintendent, had been called by Laran and arrived at the plant at approximately 10:00 p.m. By the time Ferris arrived; Laran, John and Gary had inspected and de-energized the transformer. Ferris notified Don LaRue, Production Manager, and myself, Maintenance Manager, of the problem. A diagram of the spill area in the #6 substation is included as Attachment #1.

Safety clothing and equipment was decided on for the personnel entering the spill area (see Attachment #2) and a change area was located outside of the East door and consisted of Visqueen (plastic) sheeting spread on the ground. Barrels were placed near the change area to hold contaminated clothing as workers left. The East and West access doors were roped off.

Personnel working in the spill area were instructed on the use of the safety clothing and told of the basic reasons for the precautions around PCB fluid. Ferris then had the workers begin clean up by spreading Floor Dry on the spill area. Air horns and fans were placed at both doors to minimize the fumes.

At about 7:30 a.m. the morning of September 3, 1988, Don LaRue and I met at the plant and after inspecting the area began making phone calls as required. (See Attachment #3). Calls were also made to locate make up transformer oil so that production could be resumed after clean up was completed.

Chevron Oil was contacted for newly emptied drums for the contaminated Floor Dry and it was decided to use Chevron 325 Thinner (Stoddard Fluid) for the solvent rinses after the initial Floor Dry clean up of the Pyrenol. A temporary diked area was fashioned in the NH3 plant shop of rail road ties stacked two deep in a 15' x 15' square. Visqueen was then placed inside this area to contain any possible spills of the barrels after they were filled, capped with plastic, and moved to the NH3 shop.

After two rinses with Chevron 325 Thinner and Floor Dry, visible traces of transformer oil were gone. One more rinse and dry was completed with all contaminated material labelled with contents and taken to the NH3 contaminated storage area to await removal by USPCI.

It was decided to use R-Temp produced by RTE Corp., Wausaw, Wis., as make up oil for the #13 transformer. This is currently the best product to mix with PCB fluid containing transformers as the specific gravity is identical and therefore the cooling fans can work properly.

USPCI (801) 252-2000 has been contacted to coordinate the disposal of the 19 drums of Floor Dry contaminated with PCB, Chevron 325 Thinner, clothing, etc. This will be done as soon as possible.

A copy of the EPA - PCB Spills Clean Up Policy was obtained from Mark Masarik and will be used in conjunction with the testing facilities of DataChem (801) 266-7700 to check the clean up procedure.

The booklet - Field Manual For Grid Sampling PCB Spill Sites To Verify Clean Up has been shipped from Washington D. C., and the scope of the testing for the spill area will be determined.

Attachment #2

SAFETY CLOTHING

Tyvek Suits

Rubber Boots

Rubber Gloves

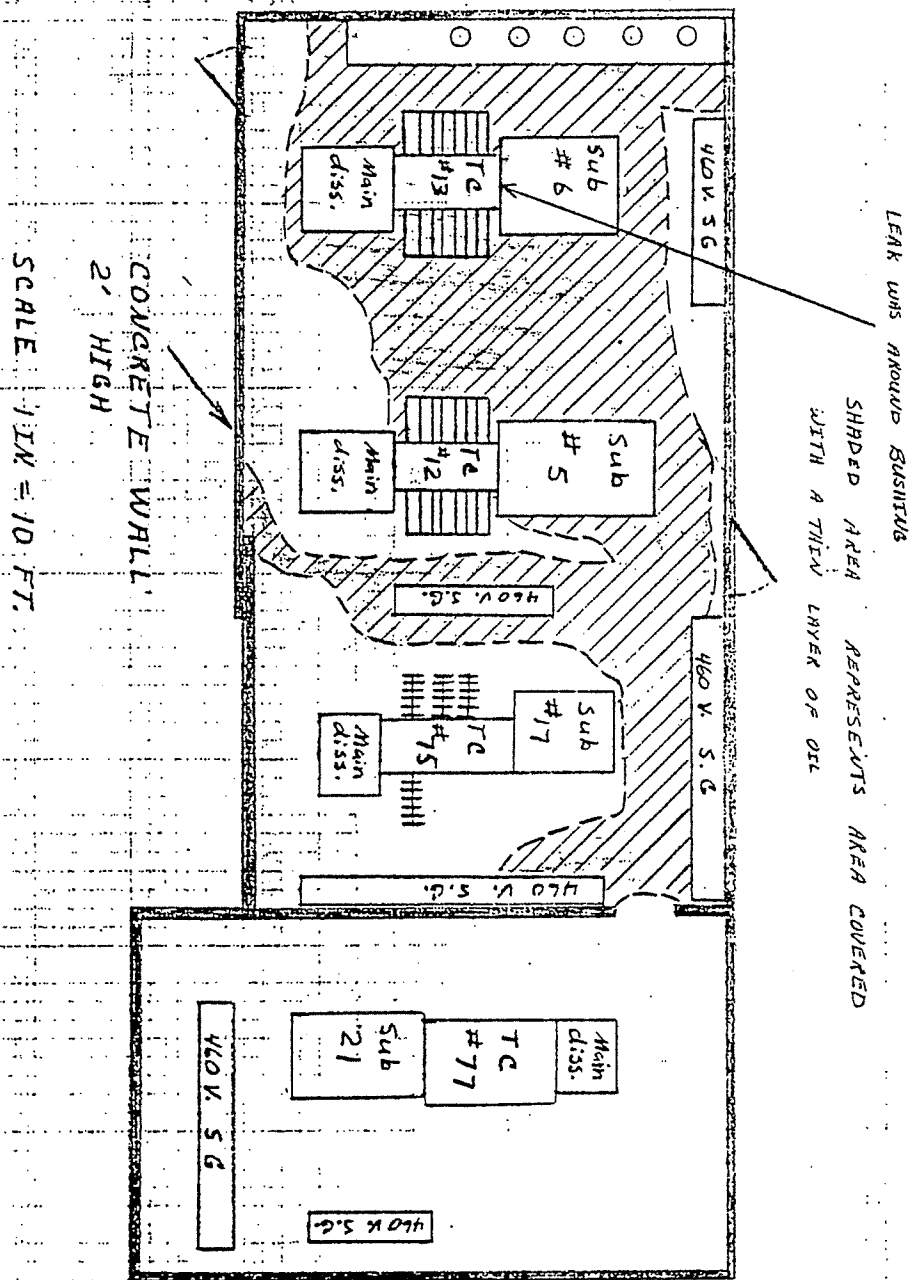
Scott Air Packs

3M Respirators with Organic Vapor Cartridges

Hard Hats

Safety Glasses

# PHOS ACID LOWER MCL



CONTACTS

Don LaRue      9/03/88      7:30 A.M.  
Called National Response Center and reported spill of approximately 100 - 130 gallons of Pyrenol from 1500 KVA transformer. Stated spill was discovered @ 8:00 P.M. 9/02/88 and was contained within concrete MCC. Stated that spill had not been cleaned up yet.  
Given NRC report #12205  
Petty Officer Oertli  
1-800-424-8802

Mike Tucker      9/03/88      8:30 A.M.  
Called Dave Eaton at home and explained the problem of leaking transformer to him. He said to be sure to make proper contacts and that he would be at the Nu-West plant by 10:30 this day.

Don LaRue      9/03/88      11:20 A.M.  
Called Idaho State Emergency & Poison Control. Answered numerous questions as to nature of spill, location, proximity of surface water, weather conditions, clean up status, etc.  
Rick Snyder 1-800-632-8000

Don LaRue      9/03/88      11:30 A.M.  
Received call from Bill Freutell of EPA, Boise, gave him description of spill and clean up status. He said be sure to log all events and he would call back Tuesday.

9/03/88      11:53 A.M.  
Dave Eaton tried to call OSHA, no answer  
1-208-334-1867

Mike Tucker      9/03/88      2:30 P.M.  
Call Mark Masarik at home with EPA in Boise (He did our Fall 1987 PCB inspection), and told him of the spill and clean up plans. He said it sounded like we had everything covered and referred to the EPA PCB spills clean up policy which we later got.



STATE OF IDAHO  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE  
Division of Environmental Quality

FILE COPY

224 South Arthur  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204  
(208) 236-6160

CECIL D. ANDRUS  
Governor

RICHARD P. DONOVAN  
Director

August 21, 1990

CERTIFIED MAIL

Mr. Don G. LaRue  
NU West Industries, Inc.  
3010 Conda Road  
Soda Springs, ID 83276

RE: Acid Spill Remediation

Dear Mr. LaRue:

I am drafting this correspondence pursuant to my inspection of the acid spill premises and our subsequent conversations so that there be no misunderstanding concerning remedial action.

The extent of your excavation operation in the spill area appeared to be sufficient in removing the majority of the acid saturated soil in both the ponded area and the ditch. However, it appears that residual traces of acid contamination do remain, particularly within the ponded area, which requires additional remediation effort to ensure that groundwater is protected. To this end I am suggesting that you apply the alkaline based soda ash material, which is available to you on site, to those contaminated areas and till it into the existing soil (backfill) where necessary. I am requesting that you, upon completion of your remedial efforts, send me a letter describing the accident and all activities since taken to remedy the situation. Please include the total amount of the spill, the amount of liquid residue pumped to your ponds, earth excavation in cubic yards and total soda ash utilized.

Idaho Rules and Regulations for Water Quality/Wastewater Treatment 16.01.2850,03 requires immediate notification of the unauthorized release of hazardous materials to this Department. Although your cleanup efforts have been prompt and extensive, please be informed that any future violation of this nature (failure to report) will most certainly result in enforcement action.

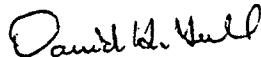
*Celebrate*  
**IDAHO**  
1890 • CENTENNIAL • 1990

NUW 005908

Mr. Don G. LaRue  
August 21, 1990  
Page 2

I am looking forward to receiving your letter. If you have any questions or if I may render any assistance, don't hesitate to call (236-6160). Thanks in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



David H. Hull  
Water Quality Compliance Officer

DHH/nn

cc: Walt Poole, IDHW-DEQ, Pocatello



RECEIVED

AUG 23 1993

DIVISION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
ENO

August 20, 1993

Mr. Dave Hull  
Water Quality Compliance officer  
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality  
224 South Arthur  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

**RE: June 28, 1993 Acid leak/spill**

Dear Dave,

The following information outlines the sulfuric acid spill experienced at our facility on June 28, 1993. As we talked about earlier, this is to update your files as to the actual spill and subsequent remediation efforts.

The acid leak was discovered at about 11:30 pm on the 28th near sulfuric acid storage tank # 27. It was suspected that the floor of the tank was leaking and the sulfuric acid was surfacing through the ground immediately adjacent to the tank.

The tank was drained by pumping the acid contents into another storage tank and sulfuric acid train cars. Residual acid and sludge remaining in the tank were neutralized with a sodium carbonate solution, and the neutralized material was drained to the phosphoric acid plant's process wastewater/gypsum sump.

When empty, the tank floor was removed to inspect the soil beneath the tank. Inspection of the soil beneath the tank revealed that the tank had not in fact been leaking. Further investigation unearthed a corroded down-leg of a pipe used to measure tank level to be the real culprit for the leak. This down-leg pipe was located outside the tank with the bottom section below grade. At this point is where the corrosion occurred, causing the acid to leak from the tank. The down-leg pipe measuring system was eliminated, and the tank floor was replaced.

While all this mechanical investigation and repair was taking place, soil sample pH was determined around the spill site to a depth of 36 inches. Results showed that the acid absorption into surrounding soil was minimal. Minor excavation and treatment with natural limestone was performed.

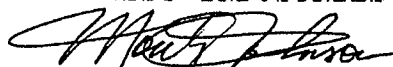
The spill itself (about 200 tons acid) was directed into a secondary containment ditch while being neutralized with soda ash and limestone.

D. Hull, IDEQ, August 20, 1993, page 2.

In short, the operators and supervisors involved in this incident worked diligently to correct the problem. Their efforts minimized possible contamination to the surrounding environment. The tank was refurbished to a condition better than before the leak and necessary remediation was performed in a timely manner.

If you need additional information please feel free to call me at (208) 547-4381.

Sincerely,  
NU-WEST INDUSTRIES, INC.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Monty Johnson', is written over the printed name.

Monty Johnson  
Environmental Manager



RECEIVED

FEB 02 1994

PRIORITY  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

January 31, 1994

Mr. David H. Hull  
Water Quality Compliance Officer  
Idaho Division of Environmental Quality  
224 South Arthur  
Pocatello, Idaho 83204

**RE: Heat-transfer oil spill 12/10/93**

Dear Mr. Hull,

This letter is to update your files on the heat-transfer oil spill which occurred at our facility 12/10/93. The spill was reported to Mr. Gordon Brown of your office on 12/20/93. The delay in reporting was caused by miscommunication of information contained in the MSDS for the spilled material. The spill was also reported to the National Response Center and the Idaho COM Center.

The material spilled was Therminol 55, a non-PCB heat-transfer oil produced by Monsanto Co. The spill was caused by a catastrophic pump failure (the side of the pump blew out) in one of our SPA evaporator units. An estimated 432 gallons of the oil spilled from the pump onto the ground beneath the unit and flowed into a process water ditch. The spilled material was then contained in the process water ponds, which are a closed-loop system. The Therminol 55 oil remaining in the evaporator unit was drained to an empty rail car.

Clean-up of the pond system was performed using oil-absorbent booms and pads, along with a skimming device to collect the major portion of the spilled oil. The oil-soaked booms and pads were placed in 55-gallon drums. The skimmed oil was pumped into a MC-312 pup trailer and later transferred to the rail car containing the oil drained from the evaporator unit.

The contaminated soil from beneath the evaporator unit was removed and also placed in 55-gallon drums.

Mr. David H. Hull, Jan. 31, 1994, page 2

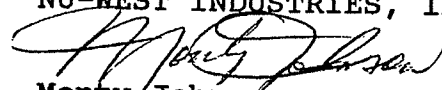
A sample from the rail car containing the combined oil was sent to a national laboratory for analysis. The analysis showed that the oil is considered a "used oil" by EPA's definition at 40CFR260.10; was "on-spec" to the specifications in Table 1, 40CFR279.11; and could be burned for energy recovery according to 40CFR279 Subpart G. The rail car was subsequently off-loaded to a waste oil transporter and shipped to an approved waste oil burner.

Samples of the absorbent materials used in the clean-up, along with the contaminated soil have been sent to USPCI Grassy Mountain Facility in Utah for waste profile. These materials will be landfilled there when the profiling is complete.

The operators and supervisors involved in this clean-up project worked diligently to correct the problem. Their efforts and ingenuity minimized possible contamination to the surrounding environment. The spill was contained and the remediation effort was performed in a timely and professional manner.

If you need additional information please feel free to call me at (208) 547-4381.

Sincerely,  
NU-WEST INDUSTRIES, INC.

  
Monty Johnson  
Environmental Manager

# HISTORICAL SPILLS

06/30/93	Caribou	SEIRO	Unknown	08:05 AM	Sulfuric Acid	Unknown	Brown, G	No	No
10/25/95	Caribou	SEIRO	02:25 PM	05:18 PM	Diesel	Insufficient	Brown, G	No	No
08/18/94	Caribou	SEIRO	11:40 AM	8/19 11:57 AM	Sulfuric Acid	Insufficient	Drewes, B	No	No
08/17/95	Caribou	SEIRO	10:35 AM	10:35 AM	Phosphorus Pentoxide	Regulatory	Drewes, B	No	No
03/03/95	Caribou	SEIRO	10:30 AM	12:00 PM	Anhydrous Ammonia	Insufficient	Drewes, B	No	Yes
08/07/95	Caribou	SEIRO	05:30 AM	05:15 PM	Phosphoric Acid	Regulatory	Roberts, B	No	No
01/18/95	Caribou	SEIRO	12:00 AM	09:20 AM	Hydraulic Fluid	Insufficient	Brown, G	No	No
02/22/95	Caribou	SEIRO	Unknown	10:10 AM	Sulfuric Acid	Minor	Elkins, R	No	No
07/28/91	Caribou	SEIRO	06:30 AM	02:45 PM	Antifreeze	Low	Elkins, R	Yes	No
04/18/95	Caribou	SEIRO	01:20 PM	01:20 PM	Anhydrous Ammonia & Diesel	Insufficient	Simms, L	No	No
05/27/95	Caribou	SEIRO	09:05 PM	09:48 PM	Gasoline	Minor	Drewes, B	Yes	Yes
10/16/91	Caribou	SEIRO	09:30 AM	07:45 PM	Chlorine Bleach	Low	Cole, A & Drewes	No	No
07/31/95	Caribou	SEIRO	02:20 PM	07:10 PM	Phosphoric Acid	Regulatory	Elkins, R	No	No
11/01/94	Caribou	SEIRO	Evening	11/2 4:50 PM	Transmission Fluid	Unknown	Simms, L	No	No
07/02/95	Caribou	SEIRO	08:45 AM	09:15 AM	Elemental Phosphorous	Insufficient	Mulican, T	No	No
10/22/94	Caribou	SEIRO	01:30 PM	01:35 PM	Sulfuric Acid	Minor	Elkins, R	No	No
03/02/95	Caribou	SEIRO	06:00 PM	3/7 3:50 PM	Cyclohexylamine	Insufficient	Mulican, T	No	No
05/06/92	Caribou	SEIRO	Unknown	11:05 AM	Natural Gas	Unknown	Cole, A; Brown,	No	No
03/15/94	Caribou	SEIRO	11:20 PM	11:45 PM	P2O5	Insufficient	Hull, D	No	No
05/15/93	Caribou	SEIRO	10:15 PM	05/16 10:45 AM	Urea Fertilizer	Minor	Elkins, R	Yes	No
05/18/94	Caribou	SEIRO	08:25 AM	5/19 2:15 PM	Sulfuric Acid	Significant	Hull, D	No	No
03/13/94	Caribou	SEIRO	11:30 AM	01:50 PM	Fumes from Polyurethane foam	Insufficient	Brown, G	No	No
04/20/94	Caribou	SEIRO	10:00 AM	11:50 AM	Anhydrous Ammonia	Insufficient	Unknown	No	No
12/11/92	Caribou	SEIRO	10:15 AM	11:50 AM	Chromium molten	Insufficient	Brown, G	No	No
12/10/93	Caribou	SEIRO	04:30 AM	12/20 10:59 AM	Therminol 55	Unknown	Brown, G	No	No
10/31/92	Caribou	SEIRO	02:20 PM- 03:00	03:20 PM	P2O5	Unknown	Hull, D	No	No
03/12/94	Caribou	SEIRO	04:00 PM	08:20 PM	Sulfuric Acid	Insufficient	Brown, G	No	No
01/01/93	Caribou	SEIRO	Unknown	11:23 AM	Chromium	Insufficient	Brown, G	No	No
08/29/93	Caribou	SEIRO	03:00-07:00 PM	09:20 PM	Diesel	Insufficient	Smith, B	No	No
07/19/92	Caribou	SEIRO	09:00 AM	10:00 AM	Phosphorus Pentoxide	Minor	Drewes, B	No	No
10/10/93	Caribou	SEIRO	07:00 AM	11:50 AM	Phosphorus	Minor	Roberts, B	No	No
07/13/94	Caribou	SEIRO	06:30 AM	09:00 AM	Ammonia	Insufficient	Unknown	No	No
01/09/93	Caribou	SEIRO	01:39 AM	08:20 AM	Antifreeze	Low	Roberts, B	No	No
03/13/91	Clark	EIRO			Diesel			No	No

8-18-98

## AGRIUM (NU-WEST) SPILL HISTORY (THESE ARE ALL I COULD FIND)

	<u>DATE</u>	<u>MATERIAL</u>	<u>QUANTITY</u>
✓	12-25-97	PHOS. ACID 42%	200 + GAL
✓	9-1-97	SULFURIC ACID 93%	3,300 + GAL
✓	7-13-97	SULFURIC ACID 98%	500 GAL.
✓	5-16-97	PHOS. WATER	2000 GAL.
✓	5-24-97	LOW pH PHOS. WATER	12000 LBS.
✓	1-15-97	SULFURIC ACID 98%	300-500 GAL.
✓	10-28-96	pH 1.1-1.6 PHOS. WATER	35,237 GAL. w/ 4542 LB $H_3PO_4$
✓	6-9-96	SULFURIC ACID 93%	1122 GAL.
✓	2-9-96	SULFURIC ACID 98%	145 GAL / 2184 LB.
✓	2-12-96	LIQUID ANHYDROUS AMMONIA	363 LB.
✓	8-7-95	PHOS. ACID	2200 GAL.
✓	7-31-95	PHOS. ACID	3200 GAL.
✓	12-10-93	THERMINOL 55, HEAT XFER FLUID	432 GAL
✓	6-28-93	SULFURIC ACID 93%	200 TONS $\Rightarrow$ 4800 LBS. ESCAPING
✓	8-21-90	ACID	QTY NOT IN LETTER
	1-9-84	PHOS. ACID	40,000 GAL.



RECEIVED

JUL 21 1997

DIVISION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
POCATELLO

File

July 18, 1997

Idaho Emergency Response Commission  
1109 Main  
Suite 250  
State House Mail  
Boise, Idaho 83720-7000

RE: 7/13/97 Hazardous Substance Release Notification Follow-up

To Whom It May Concern,

On July 13, 1997 an accidental release of sulfuric acid from a process vessel occurred at Nu-West Industries, Inc., 3010 Conda Road, Soda Springs, Idaho. The release resulted in no harm to workers, public, or property.

The release was reported to the local emergency response office (Soda Springs, Dennis Godfrey), Boise COM Center ("David"), and the National Response Center (Washington D.C., Mr. Chen, report #394877) on 7/13/97.

The following information is submitted to you in compliance with 40CFR355.40(b)(3):


Chemical name or identity of substance released:	Sulfuric acid, $H_2SO_4$
Substance extremely hazardous? (y or n):	no
Estimate of quantity released:	500 gallons
Time and duration of release:	at approx. 0830 hrs.; 5 min.
Media into which the release occurred:	ground
Known or anticipated chronic health risks? (y or n):	no
Proper precautions to take:	N/A
Names & telephone numbers of persons to contact:	see undersigned
Actions taken to respond to and contain release:	Sulfuric acid on the ground was immediately neutralized with soda ash.

IERC, July 18, 1997, page 2.

The release of sulfuric acid occurred during a maintenance procedure to drain the process vessel. Under normal operating procedure, the acid that was released to the ground would be captured and conveyed to a neutralization tank. The release was contained and the area remediated as quickly as possible. About 2000 lbs. of dense soda ash was used to neutralize the acid and affected soil. Approximately 15 cubic yards of neutralized soil was removed from the area. Soil samples were taken for pH after the neutralized soil had been removed and the neutralized soil removed from the release area was also sampled for pH. All samples indicated the sulfuric acid (low pH, "corrosive" characteristic) had been neutralized. Clean fill was replaced in the excavated area. The neutralized soil removed will be used as construction material.

If you have any questions, please call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Monty Johnson", written over a horizontal line.

Monty Johnson  
Environmental Manager

cc: D. Godfrey, LEPC, Soda Springs  
D. Hull, IDEQ, Pocatello



*file*  
*- Caribou*  
*- Miss. Spill*  
**RECEIVED**  
JAN 6 1998  
DIVISION OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

January 2, 1998

Idaho Emergency Response Commission  
1109 Main  
Suite 250  
State House Mail  
Boise, Idaho 83720-7000

**RE: 12/25/97 Spill Notification Follow-up**

To Whom It May Concern,

On December 25, 1997, at approximately 5:10 pm, an accidental release of phosphoric acid occurred at Agrium Conda Phosphate Operations (Nu-West Industries, Inc.), 3010 Conda Road, Soda Springs, Idaho. The accidental spill resulted in no harm to workers, public, or property.

The release was reported to the local emergency response office (Soda Springs, Dennis Godfrey), Boise COM Center (Boise, Shana Barness), and the National Response Center Washington D.C., Petty Officer Gonyea, report #417193).

Mr. Boyd Roberts, of the Idaho Division of Environmental Quality, contacted Randy Lowe, of Agrium/Nu-West, at 20:45 hours on 12/25/97 to confirm information relayed by the Boise COM Center.

A conference call immediately followed with Boyd Roberts, Idaho DEQ, Mary Riedner, Idaho Bureau of Hazardous Materials, Shana Barness, Boise COM Center, and Richard Davies, Pocatello Hazardous Materials Response Team. It was determined by Mr. Roberts that this release would be classified as a "regulatory only" release rather than an emergency release.

Due to the fact that the spill had occurred because of a general power failure in that area of the plant and the exact quantity of the release could not immediately be determined until power was restored, it was also agreed during the conference call that a written follow-up report would be sent with the quantity of the spill and the results of the clean up.

The following information is submitted to you in compliance with 40CFR355.40(b)(3):

Chemical name or identity of substance released:	Phosphoric acid, $H_3PO_4$
Substance extremely hazardous? (y or n):	no
Estimate of quantity released:	2600 lbs. (below 5000 lb. RQ)
Time and duration of release:	at approx. 5:10 pm.; 10min.
Media into which the release occurred:	land surface (ground)
Known or anticipated chronic health risks? (y or n):	no
Proper precautions to take:	N/A
Names & telephone numbers of persons to contact:	see undersigned
Actions taken to respond to and contain release:	Phosphoric acid on the ground was immediately neutralized with soda ash.

The release was due to an electrical power failure in the south end portion of the plant which subsequently caused a process tank to overflow. The majority of the spill was onto secondary containment asphalt. As soon as power was restored, the spilled material contained on the asphalt was flushed with water and pumped back into the process. Excavated soils from the spill area not contained on the asphalt were also reclaimed back into the process. Much of the ground was frozen at the time of the spill which allowed the reclaim of the majority of the spill materials. Water and soil samples from the area showed a pH range of 2.6 to 5.6. A Cole/Palmer Mo. 29000-25 pH probe was used for the analyses. Soda ash was used to neutralize any remaining residues.

If you have any questions concerning this follow-up letter, please call.

Sincerely,



Monty Johnson  
Environmental Manager

cc: D. Godfrey, LEPC, Soda Springs  
B. Roberts, IDEQ, Pocatello